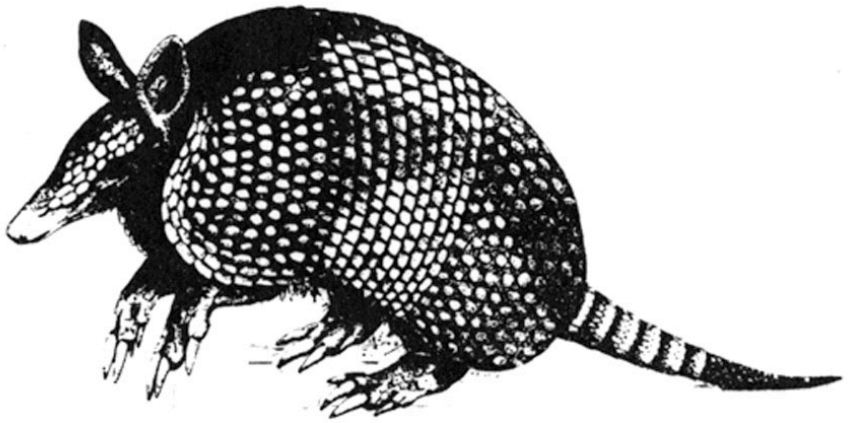
Texas Society of Mammalogists



Newsletter

2007

Celebrating the 25th Anniversary Meeting

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PATRONAGE OF THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF MAMMALOGISTS

We have about 155 members currently. They come to us from 30 institutions in 6 states. Regular membership is $2 per year. There are five levels of patron (lifetime) membership: Regular Patron membership is $100, but consider upgrading your patron membership to the Ocelot level ($125), the Bobcat level ($250), the Puma level ($500) or the Jaguar level ($1000). Contributions will be applied to the TSM endowment fund.

SOCIETY ARCHIVES

Permanent Secretary Lisa Bradley requests that copies of all TSM correspondence, documents, and photographs, including records of all committees, be submitted to her for inclusion in the Society's archives. Electronic copies should be sent to lisa.bradley@ttu.edu. Hard copies should be mailed to Lisa Bradley, The Museum, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX 79409.

ROBERT BAKER RECEIVES AWARD

The Texas Academy of Sciences has selected Baker for the 2007 Distinguished Scientist award, with the award presented at the meetings in Waco.

MESSAGE FROM CHRIS MCALLISTER, LONGTIME TSM MEMBER

I have relocated to the small college town of Chadron (pop. 5, 800) situated at 5,000 ft elevation in the Pine Ridge area of northwestern Nebraska. I am within a short hours drive of the Black Hills of South Dakota, southeastern Wyoming, and various parts of the Nebraska panhandle. TSM researchers who are willing to collaborate on projects involving small mammals (especially bats and rodents) but who do not wish to make the long distance travel to collect specimens might consider contacting me for assistance. I can collect the mammal species in question, obtain samples and tissues for genetic analyses, and store them until they are needed. I always welcome collaboration and, most importantly, hold valid scientific collecting permits for non-protected mammals of NE, SD, and WY. You may contact me at: 308-432-6219 or cmcallister@csc.edu.

THE MUSEUM OF TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY: REVISED GUIDELINES FOR MANUSCRIPTS

The Museum of Texas Tech University has recently revised its Guidelines for Authors, which describes in detail the process of manuscript preparation and submission to the The Museum's publication series (Occasional Papers of the Museum, Special Publications of the Museum, and Museology). TSM members are encouraged to visit the Publications

page of the Natural Science Research Laboratory website for more information, including the Revised Guidelines, at http://www.nsrl.ttu.edu/publications/index.htm.

REMINISCENCES OF FIELD SEASONS PAST

Comment by Rollin Baker

Luckily, I came along when skin-and-skull (S/S) taxonomy was more in vogue than it is today. And we needed large series of study specimens, usually for subspecific evaluations, so to distinguish the S/S features expressing individual variations from those S/S features expressing geographic variation. I can think of grad students like doctoral candidate William B. Davis in the 1930's 'digging' up enough samples of a *Thomomys* pocket gopher from each side of Idaho's Snake River to gain some notion using S/S examinations of the effect of that mostly entrenched water barrier on pocket gopher speciation. Likewise, I needed similar S/S data for montane mammals living on either side of the deep cut of the Río Mezquital through the entire Sierra Madre Occidental in western Durango or between related mammals living in isolated coniferous zones on the tops of desert mountains on México's Mesa del Norte. Hard to get but fun!

In earlier times, Merriam, Bailey, Osgood, Hollister, Nelson, Goldman, Jackson, etc. with less than adequate specimen series described numerous North American mammals. So we Johnnys-come-lately had to collect topotypes to gain more S/S data as to the validity of the named kinds. Hard to get but fun!

For a number of years I had Professor E. R. Hall, as a hard-nosed museum boss, who helped me dig up trip funds. The trouble was that he knew how to conduct fieldwork more efficiently than I did and worse yet, he knew that I knew that he could. Not only did he claim that his museum underlings would get no salary adjustments or promotions in rank unless they published 10 papers a year like he did, but he expected that the leader and crew (graduate students) of any expedition under his museum's auspicious should, on the average, collect and prepare as museum study skins 10 specimens (whether striped skunks or deer mice) per person per day-in-field.

So, I'd get back after an eight weeks outing somewhat worn by the fun-in-camping-out experience and after being thoroughly scolded--by a rightfully indignant spouse for my being gone so long and leaving her to attend to my sick kids. Then I'd get all the study skins and matching skulls trayed-out in the mammal range for inspection. The boss would then come around for a look-see. He'd always sniff a little at the few ragged specimens. When he mentally tried to estimate how many there were, I became terribly nervous since I thought he would calculate from my field journal exactly how many collecting days were involved, actually count the specimens, and then ascertain how many specimens were obtained per day per man.

By never attaining the numbers that the boss supposedly obtained during his celebrated late 1920 and early 1930 field trips in Nevada, I decided to cheat a little and add a professional to my operation. What I did was to persuade dear old friend and super collector Ray Alcorn to join two of my Mexican field parties. And he pepped up the crews as an efficient role model and helped bring study-skin production up to a satisfying level.

Actually he fudged a little by having a helpmate named Chewy. What Ray did after taking 20 or 30 rodents et al. from the early morning's trap line catches was allow Chewy to do the skinning while he did the rest (labeling, stuffing, pinning, etc.). It was an efficient production line! As I recall Ray prepared more than 30 study specimens in this fashion from early morning until mid-afternoon at one field camp in Coahuila in 1950. I fell behind in terms of my quota that on that eventful day, since I ended up by having to make study skins, among others, of three ornery skunks.

For super efficiency, why not just hire field crews consisting of 3 to 5 Ray Alcorns? In case of university museums, there needs to be a training aspect. My somewhat uninitiated students obtained weeks of field experiences not only in survival techniques but also in learning to associate mammals with places exactly where they were captured – in their natural habitats in assorted Mexican environments. Further, these eager young men (on one trip I did take along a chaperoned young lady) gained knowledge of the anatomy of fresh innards (as apposed to pickled lab ones) of different kinds of mammals. It's a hard-to-beat, on-the-job, learning experience.

More of this kind of reconnaissance mammalogy needs to be done, especially in South America, but for reasons that I don't fathom, mammalogists these days seem less field oriented. Even so, there are still opportunities for the field man to become hilariously happy by suddenly finding a specimen that turns out to represent a new distribution record for a mammal or even one new to science. All one needs to do is to go look where others haven't looked.

TEXAS MAMMALS – GROPING FOR GRUB

Comment By Rollin H. Baker

Let's pretend that you are either an eastern cottontail, an opossum, or a bobcat. What are your chances of getting a meal? As a rabbit, you have an easy time finding grasses, herbs, and the bark of shrubs. They are all over the place. As an opossum, your menu may be more varied but perhaps slightly harder to find: seeds, juicy roots, terrestrial and fossorial invertebrates, and perhaps carrion. As a carnivorous bobcat, your menu is basically meat: mice, rats, nestlings, rabbits, and anything up to the size of a deer fawn. Of the three, the bobcat has the toughest job of getting a meal. Still want to be a bobcat?

The nutrient needs of the cottontail and the opossum usually require them to fill their stomachs perhaps twice, each taking an hour or so. A bobcat, on the average, may take four to six hours of stalking or vigorous pursuing evasive prey in order to obtain its meal. Oftimes, it hits the sack hungry. Still want to be a bobcat?

Thus, in the long run, filling the carnivore's stomach is much more time consuming and energy utilizing than filling those of the other two. So, which do you want to be? As a bobcat you'll generally live longer but have a tougher life, In contrast, as a cottontail or an opossum, you might have an easier time of finding food but might be shorter-lived. Why? Because a bobcat might catch you! However, a rabbit can survive tough winter times by holing up, sleeping, and keep alive by re-ingesting its fecal pellets while an opossum can den-up sometimes for hours and hours at a time until warm

temperatures rouse it. A bobcat cannot do that. It must prowl almost every night in order to fill its gut to keep alive. Still want to be a bobcat?

In short, in a natural community all small mammalian participants can be considered as being equal, with some always being more equal than others. The question is: Which is the more equal?

TEXAS MAMMALIAN TURMOIL

Comment by Rollin Baker

Take off your white jacket, put on high tops, walk out of your lab, get in your automobile, drive out in the country, stop, get out, and wander through a chunk of fairly natural real estate. It has a nice look; you ought to go out every once in a while and do more such looking!

A student with you might say that it looks mighty tranquil out here. If you answer with a "yes it is," you're misleading the naïve youngster. Because it isn't! In the case of mammals, it's a continual no-holds-barred fight for survival with the species having the attitudes of Kurds, Sunnis, Shiites, Baathists, Jihadists, and Talibans are ganging up on each other.

These furred creatures are not members of one happy family but "professional" disrupters, at both the intraspecific and the interspecific levels! They cannibalize each other, steal each other's food supplies, chase others out of their "ill-gotten and claimed" territories, infect each other with parasites and diseases, abscond with each other's mates, eat each other's offspring in unprotected nests, and 'hope' the owls capture their pesky adversaries.

On further analysis, one might find that this 'angry' mixture is partly the result of their varied ancestry. For a tract of mixed prairie and woods in Central Texas, for example, one might classify the mammalian assemblage as including: (a) the "old money" establishment, the pioneering species, and (b) the Johnny-come-lately "obnoxious" interlopers. We can now break down the latter into categories: (a) south-moving prairie species, (b) west-moving forest species, (c) north-moving subtropical species, (c) east-moving arid-land species, and (d) human-introduced foreigners like house mice.

The trick here is to figure out how to document and evaluate this often inconspicuous mêlée. Is it entirely a free-for-all or do the northerners, for example, gang up on the southerners? What kind of community hell is being raised when recent intruders like prairie voles or local species with wanderlust tendencies like pygmy mice occupy new habitats?

MAMMALIAN IMPEDIMENTS

Comment by Rollin Baker

Land-hungry mammals reproduce geometrically and their tendencies, as their populations grow, are to push outwardly in search of new living spaces. And what stops them? Environmental [=physiographical, climatological or biological] impediments to which their specific adaptations respond negatively! And thank goodness, for without them our Texas mammalian DQ (diversity quotient) could approach an unexciting zilch, and what fascinates many of us about our Texas species mixes is that they change in composition dramatically from place to place. However, we do have some almost or completely omnipresent species like white-footed mice and coyotes.

Nevertheless, our resident mammals are generally confronted, via selective processes, with habitats that essentially grade in slow and unexciting ways from one into another. East to west, woods blend into prairie blend into desert; and north to south, mid-continent grasslands blend into traces of subtropical shrub. Aside from a few desert-surrounded mountaintops in Trans-Pecos isolating montane mammals from relatives, our state's major impediments to mammalian dispersal in our rather uneventful scenery are rivers and, surprisingly, mammalogists have yet to thoroughly address how these aquatic systems influence distribution and speciation.

What these rivers, flowing mostly north and south, do is act as barriers [or filter barriers] to east-west mammalian dispersal, making it neigh on to impossible for non-swimming and/or non-flying mammals on one side of these drainage patterns to consort, so to speak, with relatives on the other side. This is bad for intraspecific reunions, but the isolation is good for stimulating genetic diversity.

In the past few thousand years the streambeds of two of these rivers, the Brazos and Colorado, have meandered considerably. Course changes instigated by severe floods allow bank-side mammals on one side to suddenly find themselves on the other and renewing associations with long-separated cousins. This makes for good familial relations but is bad for speciation since newfound togetherness mixes might to some degree dilute any genetic differences that long isolation could have helped incur.

Probably there is less opportunity for such trans-water intercourse in our other north-to-south stream ways since their channels are probably more permanently fixed, In eastern Texas the Sabine, Neches, and most of the Trinity flow through heavy timber and in western Texas the Nueces and Pecos often flow in deep channels.

In addition, the meandering west-to-east flowing Red River and the usually deeply-entrenched northwest-to-southeast flowing Río Grande are also undoubtedly impediments to dispersal and gene-flow by most bank-side mammals.

We need more quantitative data as to how these aquatic barriers influence our mammals and their genetic constitutions. One way to get at some of this would be to examine genetic variation between samples obtained from, for example, populations of white-footed mice (from riparian growth) and hispid cotton rats (from nearby grassland) from each side of our east-to-west rivers. The findings might be most revealing.

Information on Programs of TSM Members

The following accounts are alphabetized by institution, department, and researcher. Any errors or inaccuracies are unintentional.

ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Department of Biology
Box 27868
Abilene, Texas 79699

Thomas E. Lee, Jr.

Phone: 325-674-2574
Fax: 3250674-2009
Email: leet@acu.edu

Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:

This year my students and I continue to work on the mammals of the Eastern Andes in Ecuador. I have studied the mammal collections of the Smithsonian, and the British Museum of Natural History this past year. We have just completed a publication on the Mammals of the Cosanga River Valley in Eastern Ecuador and those data were presented at the last TSM. In collaboration with John Hanson we have been working on the systematics *Oryzomys* (*Oreoryzomys*) *balneator* form Eastern Ecuador. This year I hope to return to Ecuador to conduct more research.

With the help of Joel Brant we are conducting research in West Texas on the cytosystematics of *Chaetodipus nelsoni*. This research project will continue this spring. Finally, our long term mammal population dynamics project is continuing on a relic prairie near Abilene, Texas.

Undergraduate Students and Their Research:
Chase Craig: Systematics of *Oreoryzomys balneator*.
Stephanos Roussos: Population genetics of vipers in Greece.

Additional Information:
I will teach Animal Ecology in Michigan this summer and interested undergraduates are welcome to take this and other field classes in the northern hardwoods.

ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY
Department of Biology
San Angelo, TX 76909

Loren K. Ammerman

PHONE: (325) 942-2189 ext. 243
FAX: (325) 942-2184
EMAIL: loren.ammerman@angelo.edu
WEB PAGE ADDRESS: http://www.angelo.edu/faculty/lammerma/

Projects:
- Molecular systematics of Molossidae using both nuclear and mitochondrial markers
- Long-term changes in community structure and relative abundance of bat species in Big Bend National Park using mistnet and acoustic recording techniques
- Roosting/feeding ecology of bats in Big Bend National Park

Grants:
- Texas National Guard grant to conduct bat surveys at Camp Swift, Camp Bowie, Camp Mabry, Camp Maxey, and Fort Wolters (with Robert Dowler, Rogelio Rodriguez, and Michael Dixon).
- USDA Sustainable Agriculture and Water Conservation grant with Robert Dowler to conduct a mammal survey of the Rio Grande Corridor/Terlingua Creek drainage, Brewster County, Texas
- ASU Research Enhancement grant to gather nuclear data from *Myotis ciliolabrum* and *M. californicus* to examine species boundaries and resolve conflicting datasets (in collaboration with Russell Pfau at Tarleton State University)

Graduate Students and Their Research:
Gema Guerra – Genetic variation in *Spilogale gracilis* based on mitochondrial markers (M.S. thesis project, co-advised with Robert Dowler)
Adam Ferguson – Relationships of African shrew genera based on cytochrome b (graduate research project, in collaboration with Robert Baker).
Molly McDonough – Genetic, karyotypic, and morphological variation in Wagner's Bonneted Bat (*Eumops glaucinus*) and its closest relative (*Eumops floridanus*) (M. S. thesis project) AND Studies of bat diversity in lowlands of eastern Ecuador
Carson Brown – Community structure of bats in the moist Chisos woodlands (graduate research project) AND Genetic population structure of a migratory bat, Leptonycteris nivalis: implications for the conservation of an endangered species (M. S. thesis project)
Rustin Tabor – Role of the century plant (*Agave*) in the diet of *Antrozous pallidus* (M.S. thesis project)

Undergraduate Students and Their Research:
Eeshita Dastidar – Non-destructive genetic sampling methods from museum specimens (ASU Research Enrichment project)

Additional Information:
The Angelo State Natural History Collection has tissues from approximately 5700 mammal specimens. The ASNHC databases are available for searching at http://bioserve.angelo.edu/. Contact Loren Ammerman or Robert Dowler if you have any questions about the collection.

Robert C. Dowler

Phone: 325-942-2189 x239
Fax: 325-942-2184
Email: robert.dowler@angelo.edu
Web page address: http://www.angelo.edu/dept/biology/Faculty/rcd/rcd.htm

Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:
My current research in Texas includes a USDA grant with Dr. Loren Ammerman to assess mammal populations on the Rio Grande Corridor. I am also beginning a survey of mammals, reptiles, and amphibians of Camp Bowie near Brownwood, Texas with Dr. Mike Dixon. I am also working with Adam Ferguson on a project to assess the status of spotted skunks (*Spilogale*), hooded skunks (*Mephitis macroura*) hog-nosed skunks, long-tailed weasels (*Mustela frenata*), and badgers (*Taxidea taxus*) in Texas. We are requesting help in salvaging specimens of these species throughout Texas and plan to use GIS approaches for identifying habitat associations and ecological niche modeling to establish likely patterns of distribution for these species in Texas. My international research continues in the Galapagos Islands, with plans to establish captive breeding groups of selected native rodents as a safeguard against extinction, in collaboration with the Wildlife Conservation Society.

Graduate Students and Their Research:
I currently have one graduate student, **Gema Guerra**, whose thesis committee I am co-chairing with Loren Ammerman. Gema is examining geographic patterns of genetic variation in the western spotted skunk, *Spilogale gracilis*. **Adam Ferguson** is also beginning graduate studies with me and is interested in determining the status of long-tailed weasels, *Mustela frenata*, in Texas and habitat associations for this species.

Undergraduate Students and Their Research:
I have three undergraduate students, **Ben Froggé**, **Nick Kincaid**, and **Richard Dolman**, who are working on habitat associations and denning patterns for ringtails, *Bassariscus astutus*, using a network of nesting boxes on a ranch on the border of Tom Green and Irion counties.

CHADRON STATE COLLEGE
Dept. of Physical and Life Sciences
Chadron, NE 69337

Chris T. McAllister, Ph.D.

Phone: 308/432-6219
Fax: 308/432-6434
Email: cmcallister@csc.edu
Web page URL: http://www.csc.edu/biology/chris.htm

Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:
Primary research continues on the geographic distribution, coccidian and helminth parasites, and ecology of amphibians, reptiles, and small mammals, particularly bats and rodents. Secondary research continues on the systematics and geographic distribution of millipeds and centipedes, with emphasis on the northern Great Plains. Some of this research has appeared in 2006 in Herpetological Review, Western North American Naturalist, Comparative Parasitology, Texas Journal of Science, and Journal of the Arkansas Academy of Science. I received a Chadron State College Research Institute Grant ($3,000) for research entitled, "Field Studies on Nearctic Millipeds (Diplopoda) of the Northern Great Plains".

Additional Information: I moved in August 2006 from the San Angelo/Texarkana areas to northwestern Nebraska to accept a position as Associate Professor of Biology at Chadron State College. Chadron is located on beautiful upland of the state (elevations average 5,000 ft.) nestled in the Pine Ridge and within an hours drive to the diverse Black Hills of South Dakota (Mt. Rushmore). Therefore, my research will remain the same but only the taxa studied will change. Nonetheless, I've continued collaborations with Drs. Chuck Bursey (Penn St.-Shenango), Henry Robison (Southern Ark. Univ.), Robert Dowler and Loren Ammerman (ASU), and Mike Forstner (Texas State Univ.). I will serve one more year as Managing Editor of the Journal of the Arkansas Academy of Science (JAAS) as Managing Editor of the Journal. Last year's discovery of the dicephalic western diamondback rattlesnake in Tom Green County, Texas, will be published in the upcoming volume 60 (2006) of the JAAS with the journal cover depicting the specimen now housed in the Angelo State Natural History Collection. I hope to attend the meeting next year.

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY

Department of Biology
One Bear Place #97388
Waco, TX 76798-7388

Kenneth T. Wilkins

Phone: Office: 254 710-2126; Research Lab: 254 710-2151
Fax: 254 710-3870
Email: ken_wilkins@baylor.edu
Web page URL: http://www.baylor.edu/biology/splash.php

Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:
Our projects generally relate to ecology and distribution of small mammals (primarily, rodents and bats) at the population and community levels. Recent funding is from the Nature Conservancy of Texas, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, American Museum of Natural History (Theodore Roosevelt Fund), and assorted private foundations.

Graduate Students and Their Research:
The mammalogy group includes 5 graduate students. Three of these are in their 2nd year of graduate studies here at BU:

Anne Merchant is a master's student with her undergraduate degree from the University of Texas, Austin; she is studying the historic role of anthropogenic roosts in the roosting biology of Mexican free-tailed bats in Texas.

Jeff Mink is a doctoral student with his B.S. from Texas A&M and M.S. from Texas State University; his dissertation pertains to winter ecology of Mexican free-tailed bats in Texas.

Tommy Pettit is a doctoral student from Arizona State University; his research relates to use of forest edge by bats.

Two newly arrived graduate students are working to identify their thesis and dissertation projects.

Brianna Kirchner, with a bachelor's degree from Baylor, is in the MS-Environmental Biology program. She is considering a small-mammal fire ecology project in native tallgrass prairie.

Nick Green, a doctoral student coming to us from the University of Louisville, is pursuing a project to evaluate effects of exurbanization on the ecology of mammals.

Additional Information:
Recent publications:

K.T. Wilkins & Heather Welty Roberts. In press. Comparative analysis of burrow systems of seven species of pocket gophers (Rodentia: Geomyidae). The Southwestern Naturalist, Spring 2007.

J.A. Scales & K.T. Wilkins. In press. Seasonality and roost fidelity in the Mexican free-tailed bat, *Tadarida brasiliensis* in an urban setting. Western North American

Naturalist, 2007.

Recent presentations:

Anne Merchant (presenter) and K.T. Wilkins. Possible Historic Changes in Relative Use of Natural and Anthropogenic Roosts by the Mexican Free-tailed Bat (*Tadarida brasiliensis*). North American Symposium on Bat Research, Wilmington, North Carolina, October 2006.

Graduate study at Baylor:

Opportunities are available for graduate study in the Department of Biology, Baylor University. Graduate assistantships are available beginning Fall 2006 in our doctoral program. The institutional financial package is generous and includes support as a graduate teaching assistant (12-month support @ approximately $1,300 monthly), tuition remission, and University-subsidized health insurance for GTAs. Faculty expertise in our department ranges from aquatic ecology to genetics to molecular biology… and, of course, includes mammalogy.

The majority of our graduate students and graduate faculty pursue research in ecological topics, all in connection to stewardship of our natural world and/or to solution of real-world environmental issues, including those related to human health. BU biologists pursue numerous research projects related to terrestrial ecology. Prof. Kevin Gutzwiller, a landscape ecologist and conservation biologist, studies effects of wildland recreational disturbance and landscape characteristics on the structure and dynamics of bird communities. Prof. Ken Wilkins works with small mammals, primarily rodents and bats, in various ecological areas including invasion ecology and community structure, urban ecology, and biogeography. Prof. Walter Holmes specializes in floral surveys and systematics of flowering plants. Dr. Robert Adams is a systematic botanist who uses molecular techniques to study plant speciation, especially in *Juniperus*.

BU Biology has been a long-time contributor to studies in limnology and aquatic biology. Prof. Owen Lind and colleagues, for example, have conducted research on water quality and trophic ecology in Lake Chapala , Mexico, for more than 20 years and have studied reservoir ecology for over 3 decades at BU. Dr. Darrell Vodopich and his students have collaborated in many of these aquatic ecology projects. We are currently investigating the feasibility of establishing field research programs in the state of Veracruz, Mexico. Dr. Robert Doyle (also department chair) specializes in restoration of wetlands systems and reservoir ecology. Dr. Ryan King has recently joined our faculty and has established a research program and graduate courses in stream ecology and advanced ecological data analysis. These aquatic scientists conduct research with colleagues in affiliated programs, including Dr. Bryan Brooks and Dr. Jason Belden in Environmental Studies, whose specialty is in aquatic toxicology, and Dr. Kevin Chambliss, an environmental chemist.

Other faculty conduct research that spans the aquatic-terrestrial interface. Dr. Joseph White, our graduate program director, contributes significantly to both aquatic and terrestrial groups via strength in ecosystems modeling and geographic information

systems. Dr. Rene Massengale is an environmental microbiologist; her ongoing research includes microbial ecology of pathogens in rivers and streams and these reservoirs into which they flow as well as environmental microbiology of dust aerosols from agricultural processes. Prof. Keith Hartberg and Dr. Rick Duhrkopf are mosquito geneticists who pursue questions of health importance, e.g., West Nile virus. Prof. Hartberg specializes in genetics and bionomics of mosquitoes. Dr. Duhrkopf studies the ecology and behavior of mosquitoes and on patterns of transmission of mosquito-borne diseases. Dr. Sang Chul Nam, a molecular geneticist who joined our faculty this year, investigates developmental genetics related to vision.

Texas Academy of Science meeting:
Baylor University hosts the annual meeting of the Texas Academy of Sciences this year, to be held 1-3 Marcy 2007. This URL provides the information you'll need to register: http://www.texasacademyofscience.org/. We look forward to seeing you in Waco.

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
Department of Environmental Science and Policy
4400 University Dr., MSN 5F2
Fairfax, VA 22030

Cody W. Edwards

PHONE: 703-993-1508
FAX: 703-993-1066
EMAIL: cedward7@gmu.edu

Research Interests, Projects, and Grants: Research interests include systematics, molecular phylogenetics, conservation genetics, and evolution in vertebrates with special interests given to mammalian systems. Specifically: Ecology, evolution, and conservation of native rodents in the Galapagos Islands with special interest on the role of introduced species (e.g. *Rattus rattus*, *Rattus norvegicus*, and *Mus musculus*) in the decline and extinction of native rodents (collaboration with Dr. Robert C. Dowler, Angelo State University). Examination of hybrid zones between genetically distinct taxa; including isolating mechanisms and the dynamics of genetic introgression. Applications of geometric morphometrics to studies of phylogeny and ontogeny of mammals. Growth and utilization of natural history collections, especially those pertaining to mammals. Natural history (surveys, etc.) and distributions of mammalian species.

Current Funding (2006):
- "Preserving the Galapagos Islands: Conservations Genetics, Evolution, and Conservation Strategies Involving Endemic Galapagos Rodents". Summer Research Funding for Tenure Track Faculty, George Mason University.
- "Population structure of carnivores at Quantico Marine Corps Base, Virginia". Department of Defense.

- "Carnivores of Prince William Forest Park: community structure, movement patterns, and conservation concerns". National Park Service (U. S. Department of Interior).

Graduate Students and their Research:

Bernadette M. Allen (Ph.D. student) --- Project TBD (will begin work in May 2007).

Tammy Henry (Ph.D. student) --- Project TBD (will begin work in January 2007).

Sarah Johnson (Ph.D. student) --- Conservations Genetics, Evolution, and Conservation Strategies Involving Endemic Galapagos Rodents.

Katherine Bryant (M.S. student) --- Population genetics of Fox squirrels (*S. niger*) in Virginia.

Chris Farabaugh (M.S. student) --- Assessing potential relationships between microclimate variables measured within an oak-hickory forest patch and the presence of interior forest birds. Chris completed his degree in May (2006) and is enrolled in GMU's Ph.D. program.

Sonya Graves (M.S. student) --- Project TBD (will begin work in January 2007).

Mike Jarcho (M.S. student) --- Retracing the historical introduction and spread of three introduced rodent species in the Galápagos Islands, Ecuador. Mike will defend his thesis in February (2007). Currently, he is enrolled in a Ph.D. program at The University of California, Davis.

Laura Lakeman (M.S. student) --- Carnivores of Prince William Forest Park: community structure, movement patterns, and conservation concerns.

Jeff Streicher (M.S. student) --- Genetic variation among members of the *Craugastor* (*Eleuthetrodactylus*) *podiciferus* species complex (Cerro Utyum robber frog).

Undergraduate Students and their Research:

Kristen Baird --- Confirmation of Wild Tundra and Trumpeter Swan Hybrid Populations in Alaska. Kristen will begin her graduate (M.S.) work at GMU in January (2007).

Juan Rodriguez --- Utilization of scat as a means of assessing genetic structure of black bear populations in northern Virginia. Juan graduated (B.S.) in August (2006) and is working as a research technician at the National Zoo.

McMurry University

1400 Sayles Blvd.
Abilene, Texas 79697

Joel G. Brant

Phone: (325) 793-3875
Fax: (325) 793-4770
Email: brant.joel@mcm.edu

Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:

My research interests are primarily concerned with the natural history of mammals, particularly in Texas and the Chihuahuan Desert. I am currently setting up a research program for myself and selected undergraduates that will focus on the natural history & ecology of mammals in the southern Rolling Plains, northern Edwards Plateau, and northeastern Chihuahuan Desert.

Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History
2401 Chautauqua, University of Oklahoma
Norman, OK 73072

Marcia A. Revelez

Collection Manager Department of Mammalogy
Collection Manager Oklahoma Collection of Genomic Resources

Phone:405-325-7988
Fax:405-325-7699
Email:mrevelez@ou.edu
Web page URL:www.snomnh.ou.edu

Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:
Grant: co-PI: Oklahoma Mammals Database: Preparation of Data from the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation State Grants program

Working with Robert J. Baker, Texas Tech University: Karyotypic descriptions for rodents collected from Ecuador and Honduras during 2001 and 2004 Sowell Expeditions

Working with Robert C. Dowler, Angelo State University: Karyotypic descriptions of endemic rodent fauna of Galapagos Islands, Ecuador

Additional Information:
Mammal collection: Currently wrapping up inventory and data cleaning of collection (approximately 35,000 cataloged records), and redesigning searching capabilities for online database;
OMNH data currently available through MaNIS

Tissue collection: November 2006, SNOMNH launched newest collection, Oklahoma Collection of Genomic Resources, for all vertebrate and invertebrate tissues (Contacts: Janet Braun jkbraun@ou.edu; Marcy Revelez mrevelez@ou.edu)

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY
Department of Biological Sciences
Box T-0100
Stephenville, TX 76402

Russell Pfau

Phone: 254-968-9761
Fax: 254-968-9157
Email: pfau@tarleton.edu
Web page URL: http://www.tarleton.edu/~biology/pfau

Research Interests, Projects, and Grants: I'm interested in molecular ecology and evolution, particularly at the population-species interface. My current research efforts use microsatellite, AFLP, and mitochondrial DNA sequence analyses to infer patterns of genetic diversity and divergence in a variety of taxa. Projects other than those listed below include characterization of a newly discovered hybrid zone between two divergent lineages of the hispid cotton rat (*Sigmodon hispidus*) in the U.S., PCR amplification of Y-chromosome markers in the hispid cotton rat, and population genetics of an invasive crab in Texas lakes. Current collaborations include: Dr. Greg Wilson at the University of Central Oklahoma (mtDNA phylogeography of the Texas mouse (*Peromyscus attwateri*) across its entire geographic distribution), Dr. Loren Ammerman at Angelo State University (use of AFLP analysis to reveal patterns of divergence in two closely related *Myotis* species), Dr. Phil Sudman and Sam Kieschnick at Tarleton (AFLP analysis of *Geomys*), Drs. Allan Nelson and Harold Rathburn at Tarleton (genetic evaluation of native plant ecotypes identified for restoration purposes).

Graduate Students and Their Research:
Terry Johnson – Population genetics of the Texas mouse (*Peromyscus attwateri*) across its entire geographic distribution using AFLP analysis.

Undergraduate Students and Their Research:
Endra Sookor – PCR amplification and sequencing of the ZP3 gene (which encodes a gametic compatibility protein) in the hispid cotton rat (*Sigmodon hispidus*)
Bethany Stevens – development of microsatellite markers for the hispid cotton rat

Philip D. Sudman

Phone: 254-968-9154
Fax: 254-968-9157
Email: sudman@tarleton.edu
Web page URL: http://www.tarleton.edu/~sudman

Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:

Current research revolves around pocket gopher genetics, taxonomy, and systematics.

Graduate Students and Their Research:
Sam R. Kieschnick - AFLP analysis of *Geomys breviceps*.
Danielle Breed - Natural history of *Chaetodipus hispidus* at Copper Breaks State Park.

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
Department of Biological Sciences
Texas Tech University
Lubbock, Texas 79409

Robert J. Baker

Phone: 806-742-2702
Fax: 806-742-2963
Email: rjbaker@ttu.edu
Web page URL: http://*www.biology.ttu.edu* *http://www.nsrl.ttu.edu*

Research Interests, Projects and Grants:
Robert J. Baker's interests encompass the ability to dissect the genome in an effective way to provide resolution to problems concerned with systematics, conservation, biodiversity, genotoxicology, agriculture, etc. Major projects in the lab include understanding the biological consequences of the meltdown of the nuclear reactor at Chornobyl, understanding chromosomal evolution (especially using fluorescent *in situ* hybridization), providing genetic markers for cultivars of cotton, and my first love, determining the systematics of the New World leaf-nosed bats (Family Phyllostomidae). He published "Speciation in mammals and the genetic species concept" in the Journal of Mammalogy. He and Peter Larsen, Faisal Anwarali, Vicki Sweir and Sergio Solari all spent three weeks in Borneo last summer.

Post Doctoral Students:
Steven R. Hoofer joined the lab in February 2003 as a post-doctoral research associate. His research focuses on biodiversity, phylogenetics, phylogeography, and evolution of mammals. In the last few months he has been concerned with the systematics of *Apodemus* in Ukraine and how pseudogenes are difficult to detect and can result in overestimation of biodiversity if only cytochrome-b is used. srhoofer@hotmail.com

Graduate Students:
Faisal Ali Bin Anwarali Khan joined the lab to work on a Master's degree in systematics in the beginning of 2006. His education before coming to Texas Tech was in Malaysia and his interest is in the fauna of Borneo.
Juan Pablo Carrera is a second year Masters student who joined to the team in January

2004 He is interested in Museum Science, natural history, biogeography and systematics of the Neotropical fauna, specially bats. Juan Pablo is involved in some projects about the distribution of bats in the western side of the Ecuadorian Andes. Furthermore, he is involved in the organization and curation of the mammal collection and the vital tissue collection at the NSRL. *juan.p.carrera@ttu.edu*

Tamara Enríquez is a Master student in Museum Science. She works at the Natural Science Research Laboratory as a curatorial assistant in the Invertebrate Collection. Currently, she is working on her thesis, developing a database for the Invertebrate Collection, and organizing, digitizing, and barcoding the invertebrate type collection. tamara.enriquez@ttu.edu

Peter Larsen is a second year PhD student with Dr. Baker. His research is focused on the phylogenetics and phylogeography of Neotropical mammals. He is particularly interested in the phylogeography of Caribbean bats. plarsen01@yahoo.com

Kathy MacDonald is a doctoral student. Her research interests focus on behavior and management of captive mammals, particularly stereotypic behavior in captive carnivores. In 2003, she received her M.A. in Museum Science where her focus was the collection management and registration of zoological and natural history specimens. She currently oversees the Genetic Resource Collection Inventory and Reorganization Project at the Natural Science Research Laboratory where she has been employed since 2002. *kathy.macdonald@ttu.edu*

Heather Meeks is a second-year PhD student in Dr. Baker's lab. She is assessing the effects of chronic environmental exposure to radiation on mammal systems in Chornobyl, Ukraine. Her primary focus is evaluating patterns of genetic diversity in exposed rodent populations, using a number of different DNA motifs, to elucidate potential genotoxicity resulting from radiation exposure. *hnmeeks@yahoo.com*

Hugo Mantilla-Meluk joined our program for a PhD degree in August 2002. Hugo is a native of Colombia and received his degree under the direction of Alberto Cadena and Thomas R. Defler, at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia. He has been working on mammalian diversity and ecology in different countries of the Neotropics including Colombia, Peru, Costa Rica, and Panama. His interests include a variety of aspects of ecology, evolution, systematics, and patterns of diversity of mammals of the Neotropics. His research is focused on two groups: Primates of the Colombian Amazon Region, and Neotropical bats. He has worked for the Organization for Tropical Studies at Duke University campus as a visiting scholar. His goal is to combine the macro and micro evolutionary approaches to contribute to the knowledge of patterns of biodiversity in the Neotropics. Besides this work, he is interested in modelling patterns of biodiversity using GIS based methods and he is in charge of the Colombian data set for the MaNIS project. Hugo received the Karl Koopman award from the North American Bat Research group for his presentation on the ecological information relative to speciation in the hybrid zone of *Uroderma bilobatum*, and his model of Genetic Isolines applied to the study of bat speciation received the second place to the Best Analytical Presentation at the International Conference of ESRI users in August

2005. Hugo is in charge of the program of cooperation between Texas Tech University and the Universidad Nacional and the Universidad Tecnológica del Chocó in Colombia. hmantill@ttacs.ttu.edu.

Raquel Marchan is working on a Master's degree. She is from Ecuador with a degree from Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador. She worked with Santiago Burneo. Her research at PUCE was concerned with morphological variation in *Artibeus* in Ecuador. Her Master's work at Tech will involve morphological variation in all members of the genus *Artibeus* across the entire range of each species. Her primary focus at this moment is morphological variation in *Artibeus lituratu*s and the systematic status of *A. intermedius*.

Miguel Pinto from Ecuador just joined the PhD program this semester. He has wide interests in the study of mammals varying from the study of associated parasites and diseases to their morphological variation and systematics. His current research is focused in the morphological and molecular variation in some New World bats (Phyllostomidae, Vespertillionidae). miguel.pinto@ttu.edu

Donelle Schwalm joined the lab as a Masters student in January 2005. She originally hails from Midland, South Dakota. She received her bachelor's degree in Biology from Adrian College in Adrian, Michigan in 2000. For her graduate research, Doni is using microsatellites to assess gene flow rates and genetic structuring in the swift fox, *Vulpes velox*. Subpopulation groupings identified during genetic analysis will be mapped in ArcGIS. After subpopoluation boundaries are delineated, correlated landscape features (natural and anthropogenic) will be identified, providing insight into the influence of landscape structure on genetic diversity in swift fox. In addition, she is conducting a scat-based presence-absence survey for *V. velox* in 39 counties in the Texas panhandle. Scats will analyzed using mitochondrial markers to determine the depositing species. In July, The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation awarded a $34,000 grant to Ms. Schwalm and her co-advisor, Dr. Warren Ballard in the Department of Range, Wildlife and Fisheries Management, to fund swift fox research. doni.schwalm@ttu.edu

Sergio Solari is a Ph.D. candidate (fifth year student) from Peru. His research is focused on the assessment of congruence between morphological characters and phylogenetic analyses of molecular data for several genera of small mammals, some of them being part of the research by other students in the lab. Current projects include the systematics and taxonomy of Didelphidae genera *Monodelphis* and *Marmosa*, as well as bats of the genera *Carollia*, *Dermanura*, *Lonchophylla* (Phyllostomidae) and *Thyroptera* (Thyropteridae). His main research involves (a) phylogenetics of two species-group of short-tailed opossums (*Monodelphis*), using the cytochrome b gene, (b) morphological diagnoses of the resulting clades, some of which may represent new species, and (c) diversification of the whole genus in South America. He co-edited a Fieldiana volume on the Birds and Mammals of Manu Biosphere Reserve, a megadiverse protected area in SE Peru. He received the ASM Fellowship in Mammalogy during the 86th Annual meeting of the ASM. sergio.solari@ttu.edu

Vicki Swier is a Ph.D. candidate studying the role of LINEs in the mammalian genome, particularly in the South American Sigmodontine rodents where LINEs

may be extinct. She is utilizing chromosomal banding and whole chromosome probes isolated from Sigmodon hispidus to describe the ancestral karyotype of the Sigmodontines. On the side, she is studying the mitochondrial diversity in the South Dakota population of Eptesicus fuscus; and describing the karyotypic diversity of the mammals collected in the 2006 Sowell expedition to Malaysia. *vicki.swier@ttu.edu*

Undergraduate Students:

Robert Bull is a junior Biochemistry undergraduate. He has worked on several projects but will present a paper at the upcoming meeting on *Dermanura*. *junglebalistic@hotmail.com*

Will Flanary is a senior undergraduate and is sequencing some introns of Phyllostomid bats to increase the database fro the resolution of the deep branching patterns in these bats.

Genevieve Kendall is a senior Cell and Molecular major, and has been a member of Baker's lab for almost three years. She was accepted into the Howard Hughes Fellowship program at the beginning of the Fall 2003 semester. Clyde Jones Best Poster Presentation Award for my poster entitled "Karyotypic and Cytochrome-*b* Variation in *Microtus* from Ukraine" at TSM in February 2006. Genevieve is currently working on the systematics of *Microtus* collected from Ukraine. *genevieve.c.kendall@ttu.edu*

Former Students:

Adam Brown graduated May 2006 and is currently at the Children's Cancer Research Institute at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. adambrown55@yahoo.com

Michelle Knapp. Our lab lost Michelle Knapp to a car wreck near Tulia, TX after she had spent an evening watching the sunset in Palo Duro Canyon. There is a scholarship fund set up in the Texas Tech Foundation and the scholarship is to fund fieldwork studying bats.

Additional Information:

We've moved into the new wing of the Natural Science Research Laboratory and we would welcome you to come visit us.

Robert D. Bradley

Phone: (806) 742-2725
Fax: (806) 742-2963
Email: robert.bradley@ttu.edu
Web page URL: Biology - http://www.biol.ttu.edu/
Museum - http://www.nsrl.ttu.edu/

Research Interests, Projects, And Grants:

My research interests include systematic relationships, molecular evolution, and natural

history of mammals, particularly in geomyoid and sigmodontine rodents. Examination of hybrid zones between genetically distinct taxa; including isolating mechanisms and the dynamics of genetic introgression. Examination of the origin and evolution of rodent-borne viruses; especially in the use of rodent phylogenies and genetic structure to predict the transmission and evolution of viruses. Modeling and predictions associated with epidemiology. Growth and utilization of natural history collections, especially those pertaining to mammals. Natural history and distribution of mammalian species.

Current Projects:
- Systematics of the genus *Peromyscus*.
- Systematics and phylogenetic studies of *Peromyscus boylii*.
- Phylogenetic relationships of Neotomine and Peromyscine rodents.
- Study of hybridization between chromosomal races of *Geomys*.
- Study of hybridization between two species of *Neotoma*.
- Study of hybridization between mule deer and white-tailed deer.
- Systematics and phylogenetic studies of the genus *Sigmodon*.
- Systematics and phylogenetic studies of the genus *Neotoma*.
- Systematics and phylogenetic studies of the genus *Geomys*.
- Systematics and phylogenetic studies of the genus *Oryzomys*.
- Ecology of emerging hanta- and arenaviruses in the southwestern US.

Graduate Students And Their Research:

J. Delton Hanson (PhD student) is in his fifth year. Dissertation topic involves - Molecular systematics of Oryzomyines.

Ryan Chambers (Masters student) is in his second year. Thesis topic will involve nuclear genes and molecular systematics of *Geomys*.

Dallas Henson (Masters student) is in his second year. Thesis topic will involve nuclear genes and molecular systematics of *Sigmodon*.

Neal Platt (Masters student) is in his first year. Thesis topic is undecided.

Undergraduate Students And Their Research:

Andy Stallings (Senior) is in his second year in the program. His research topic involves a genetic assessment of *Sigmodon hispidus eremicus*.

Robert Baker (Junior) is in his second year in the program. His research topic involves the use of nuclear genes in examining relationships of Neotomine/Peromyscine rodents.

Additional Information:

Michelle Haynie (PhD) graduated and is a member of the Genetics Program at the Smithsonian Institute. Michelle's dissertation topic was - Population genetics of four species of *Neotoma* using microsatellite data.

Dnate' Baxter (MS) graduated and is employed as a research associate at Colorado State University. Dnate's thesis topic was - Population genetics of *Neotoma micropus* collected from midden sites.

TRINITY UNIVERSITY
Department of Biology, One Trinity Place
San Antonio, TX 78212

David Ribble

Phone: 210-999-8363
Fax: 210-999-7229
Email: dribble@trinity.edu
Web page URL: www.trinity.edu/dribble

Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:
I am interested in the ecology and evolution of mating systems, primarily in *Peromyscus* and more recently in African elephant-shrews.

Undergraduate Students and Their Research:
Samantha Hammer. Genetic Mating System *Neotomodon* (*Peromyscus*) *alstoni*.

Additional Information:
I spent part of last year working in central Mexico on *Neotomodon* (*Peromyscus*) *alstoni*, and then I made it back to east Africa (Tanzania) and southern Africa (South Africa) to work with elephant-shrews. I am back in the saddle at Trinity University, resuming my responsibilities as Chair of the Biology Department.

MINUTES OF THE 24TH ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
18 February 2006

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm by President Tom Lee. The minutes of the 2005 Annual Business Meeting as written in the 2006 meeting program were approved.

Officers' Reports

Secretary-Treasurer, Loren Ammerman summarized the Treasurer's Report for 2005 as printed in the 2006 meeting program. The checking account balance as of the first of the year was $5,580.22. Total income in 2005 was $15, 446.25 and total expenses were $9,625.06. The checking account had $11,130.31 at the end of 2005. The Security fund grew $541.26 in 2005 to a total of $15,610.07. The net gain in total assets for 2005 was $6,091.35, an increase over the last two years primarily due to auction income and the patron membership initiative. The Treasurer's Report was approved by the attending members.

Ammerman also encouraged the members to take advantage of pre-registration next year and announced the new membership levels instituted last year. Regular Patron

membership is still $100. Ocelot level is $125, Bobcat level is $250, Puma level is $500 and Jaguar level is $1000. Clyde Jones was recognized as new Jaguar member this meeting. Scott Chirhart and Phil Sudman have upgraded their membership to Bobcat level and Ira Greenbaum and Robert Bradley upgraded their membership to the Ocelot level.

Ammerman thanked Phil Sudman for his help putting the program together and printing it. The moderators were thanked along with Russell Pfau and Kristin Denton for running the computer/projector during the meeting.

Permanent Secretary, Lisa Bradley reported that archives, records, programs, newsletters are under the care of the Southwest Collection at Texas Tech University. She announced that the only minutes that are missing are from 1987 and 1988 meetings and asked for help in locating them. She encouraged members to send information to her and help keep the archives current.

Newsletter/Webpage Editor, Russell Pfau announced that the newsletter should be accessible on the webpage and that he would welcome suggestions for improving the society's site. The TSM site http://www.tarleton.edu/~biologyweb/tsm/index.html is now accessible by the Google search engine.

Reports from Committee Chairs

Honorary Members Chair, Phil Sudman reported that on the inside cover of the program is a list of past honorary members. He reviewed the function of the committee and reminded members to send nominations to the committee. Sudman announced that the current nominees (Ann and Terry Maxwell) have been instrumental in the success of TSM over the last 10-15 years. They received a resounding round of applause and the nomination of Ann and Terry Maxwell was approved and seconded. The presentation of the award will be at the banquet at the 2007 annual meeting.

Committee on Conservation Chair, Ken Wilkins, was not available for a report because he was serving as the Student Honoraria Chair this year and was busy with the judges. Later in the meeting, Ken reported that the Committee on Conservation needs people to take over that have time to serve in this capacity.

President Lee reported that the results of the competitions would be announced at the banquet.

After the banquet dinner, Committee on Student Honoraria Chair, Ken Wilkins announced the winners as follows: 1) for oral presentations, Rollin H. Baker Award winner was Joshua A. Broussard (Centenary College of Louisiana); TSM Award winner was Molly M. McDonough (Angelo State University); William B. Davis Award winner

was Anica Debelica (Sam Houston State University); and Robert L. Packard Award winner was Amy Bickham Baird (University of Texas at Austin); and 2) for poster presentations, Clyde Jones Award winner was Genevieve C. Kendall (Texas Tech University). There was no Vernon Bailey award given this year. All awards consisted of an award certificate signed by the current TSM President, Tom Lee, and a cash prize ($150 for the Packard Award and $100 for all others).

Government Liaison Committee Chair, Robert Dowler, said that there were no Texas Parks and Wildlife representatives at the meeting this year as a result of conflicts with other meetings.

Committee on 25th Annual TSM Meeting Chair, Robert Baker reported that Lisa Bradley and Clyde Jones are helping him with the written history of TSM. The committee requested input from the society to confirm that the history is correct. They will send an electronic copy of the document to any members that request it for review. Bradley reported that she has used archives to write the history but is looking for more input.

The history document will be published after the 25th meeting next year as a Special Publication of Texas Tech University. The society will pay publication costs and copies will be provided free of charge to all members that are present at the meeting next year. Baker announced that Jim Patton will be the banquet speaker next year.

Bradley and Baker requested that members search for photos to be shown in a special slide show at the meeting next year – historical photos from meeting, banquet speakers, honorary members, etc. She requested that they be sent to her (electronic or hard copies). Ammerman agreed to send an e-mail reminder to the membership.

It was discussed that an effort should be made to invite all past presidents and members that have not been as active in the past years. Robert Baker announced that TSM is the only state mammal society in the nation and feels that it has successfully achieved Packard's original vision of such a society as described to Baker on a bus in Long Beach California.

Auction Committee Chair, Marcy Revelez, reported that the auction last year generated $2300. She announced that 8 different vendors were convinced to donate to the auction and are recognized on a poster in the dining hall. She made a plea for new members to become involved on the committee and to contact her if interested in helping to make the 25th Anniversary auction special.

Election of Officers

President-Elect. The Executive Committee put forth one nominee John Bickham. President Lee asked for nominations from the floor. There were none. John Bickham was elected by acclamation.

New Business

President Lee announced that the executive committee has discussed possible changes to the constitution and by-laws of the Society. The Constitution Article VII-Amendments states that amendments must be approved by mail ballot. It is the interpretation of the executive committee that e-mail ballot qualifies as a mail ballot as written in the constitution. A motion passed to accept this interpretation.

TSM Meeting Site for 2007. The motion was made and passed by acclamation to have the 2007 meeting of TSM at the Texas Tech University Center at Junction. The possibility of scheduling to avoid conflicts with The Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society meeting was discussed. Secretary/Treasurer Ammerman will research the dates that are available and attempt to avoid overlap with other meetings. The date of February 16-18, 2007 was subsequently reserved with the Center at Junction.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.